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THE LEADER OF FASHION

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The Court

KING GEORGE left Victoria Station on Monday afternoon for Goodwood, when his Majesty honours the Duke of Richmond and Gordon with a visit for the race meeting. The Queen remains in town this week, proceeding to Cowes on Saturday, where the King will join her on the royal yacht. It is expected that their Majesties will remain on the royal yacht until Monday week, August 12th, when they return to London, but only stay in town for a day or two. The King proceeds to Scotland for the autumn, but paying several shooting visits on the way North. The Queen goes to Neu-Strelitz to pay her long-promised visit to the Dowager Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. After a stay of ten days or a fortnight on the Continent, the Queen returns to England, and goes direct to Balmoral to join the King. All the Royal children will be at Balmoral for the autumn.

At Sandringham

Queen Alexandra left Marlborough House on Saturday last for Sandringham, where her Majesty the Queen-Mother will remain some time. Princess Victoria, who accompanied Queen Alexandra, is expected at Harrogate, to take the "cure" there, and will then join Queen Alexandra in Scotland, probably at Mar Lodge, where the Princess Royal will receive her mother and sister. Queen Alexandra's plans for the autumn include a visit to Christiania, to King Haakon and Queen Maud, and possibly a visit to Copenhagen, where the Dowager-Empress Marie of Russia will be during the next few months.

On Friday last Queen Alexandra and Queen Amelie of Portugal went to Alton, and inspected the Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples Home and College, both Royal ladies being interested in the care of crippled children.

Dining Out

It is well known that both the King and Queen have a rooted objection to late hours, and this is shown not only in the time fixed for the Courts and the other State functions at Buckingham Palace, but also in their Majesties' preference for dining out with their subjects. King Edward frequently dined out, but very seldom did Queen Alexandra accompany him, so that the change in method is all the more marked since the return of the King and Queen from India. The names of the guests invited to meet their Majesties at these dinner parties are, as usual, submitted for approval beforehand, but it is not the Royal custom to use this means of enlarging the circle; and people who are "interesting," though not *hofahig*, as the Germans put it, are bidden to the Royal presence under other conditions.

Queen Mary's Aunt

The Dowager-Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz is referred to by most papers as the "great," or "grand," aunt of Queen Mary, who is going to visit her at Neu-Strelitz in the course of a fortnight; but as a matter of fact she is simply "aunt"—her Majesty's mother, née Princess Mary of Cambridge, and the Grand Duchess having been sisters, the former being the younger by some eleven years. The Dowager-Duchess is now in her 91st year. George III.'s wife Charlotte, as well as the famous Queen Louise of Prussia, were both Princesses of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

The Berlin Visit

Unless something very unusual should occur to prevent it, their Majesties the King and Queen will pay a State visit to Berlin early in 1913; but the statement that the Prince of Wales will accompany his parents is somewhat unlikely. There has been, owing to the Durbar, a rather longer period than usual before the fulfilment of these State visits, due largely to the desire of the King and Queen to make the acquaintance of their own people first. The suggestion that there has been a difficulty, because the Queen's father, the late Duke of Teck, was not a Royal Highness, may be dismissed as the fancy of some Teutonic Court official who is etiquette-mad.

King George to Visit Cambridge

The King will visit Cambridge in September for the purpose of attending the Army Manœuvres, which take place in an area of which Cambridge is the central point. This is a welcome departure from the usual practice, and his Majesty's presence at the operations will be greatly appreciated by all ranks in the Army.

His Majesty will arrive at Cambridge by special train from Balmoral on the morning of September 17th, and will stay at the Master's Lodge, Trinity College, until September 19th. It is expected that the King will proceed to the manœuvres between 9 and 10 o'clock each morning, returning to Trinity College in the evening. The rooms which his Majesty will occupy will be those used by Queen Victoria.

THE KING AND QUEEN VISIT THE "REVENGE" AT SHAKESPEARE'S ENGLAND:
Mrs. George Cornwallis-West is by the side of the King

IMMINGHAM DOCK OPENED BY THE KING:
Their Majesties on the "Killingholme" as it entered the dock

GOWNS AND GOSSIP:

BATHING KIT

MY Best Friend—There will soon be little need for me to write you these letters describing the frocks I have seen, the people who have worn them, and the places at which they have appeared. You will go to your local Kinemacolour theatre and see it all for yourself. Last week a Fashion Fête was organised by the Ladies' All-British Fabric and Fashion Association at the Botanic Gardens, and we were invited to witness a series of tableaux, posed for the Kinemacolour operators, showing gowns, etc., of British fabric and design. Unfortunately, for those who, like myself, went early in the afternoon, the rain came down in torrents, and the pretty *al fresco* scenes we had anticipated were not realised. There were, however, some interesting exhibits in one of the conservatories. I noticed that Ireland was, on this occasion, amenable to the principles of union, for there were Irish pipers, an Irish seer, an Irish harpist, and a stall displaying the wares of the Irish Decorative Art Association. The Cullompton Home Industries were represented, also the Royal School of Art Needlework. Messrs. Peter Robinson had some very beautiful furs on show, and the London Shoe Company and Messrs. Burberry both had characteristic displays.

Try as one will, it is almost impossible to escape from the subject of "holidays." From every hoarding the charms of this or that holiday resort are shouted at one by some mahoganised old "salt," or persuasively suggested by a divinity in yachting garb. From every window holiday clothes flaunt their charms and their cheapness; from the Stores come pertinent suggestions for the supply of holiday provisions, and from the photographic people, hints that a holiday without a camera is a foredoomed failure. Even the publishers of one's morning paper do not hesitate to suggest that a subscription, paid in advance, will ensure the daily advent of the journal at one's holiday address.

And I, too, must take up the theme again, and discourse upon the clothes that will find a place in that luggage which the railway carriers implore you in poster language from every van to "send in advance." It will, of course, include a bathing dress and *peignoir* for the seaside visit, and there is no excuse this year for these being anything but smart. It is not so long since an inquiry for bathing dresses was productive of nothing but an atrocity in scarlet serge, bound with white, or its counterpart in dark blue. But those who control our great *magasins* have at last awakened to the fact that women really do bathe, and require suitable and becoming gowns for the purpose, and this year more space than ever has been devoted to the display of bathing gowns and wraps.

The smartest gowns are made of washing taffetas, and are trimmed with pipings and revers of a contrasting colour. The favourite shape is a tunic terminating just above the knees, with knickers *en suite*. Enthusiastic swimmers, of course, dispense with a skirt, but the average bather who remains close to the shore bows to the discretion of the short skirt.

The question of colour is always a difficult one to decide where a bathing dress is concerned. Navy and scarlet are so well patronised that they lack distinction, and "art" colours are apt to look sickly when wet. Many women pin their faith to the becomingness of a black costume, but I think it looks "beetle-y" when saturated with water and clinging closely to one's person. I have seen an emerald-green dress, with black silk facings, black stockings, and a little black silk handkerchief cap, which constituted a really charming "kit," and the new "sand" colour is also successful with either black or white facings. Then there are shot and striped effects, and I recall a very effective little suit in a dark green-and-blue tartan, the charm of which was enhanced by a border of black vermicelli braiding on red. And, lastly, a dark red tunic—quite a deep maroon, I mean, as opposed to the ordinary scarlet—looks nice in the water or out of it.

For the holidays. Cerise mousseline de soie, with a panel of white tulle, composes this gown. (Photo by Talbot, Paris)

The bathing wraps this year are mostly made of the finer Terry, which is by courtesy called sponge cloth, and have hood linings and facings of a contrasting hue. The burnous shape is the best, and the hood is more a matter of ornament than use, for everyone wears a cap or hat with waterproof lining.

This bathing millinery is quite worthy of a letter to itself, so *chic* and dainty can it be. The hideous waterproof cap of former days is banished, or, at least, hidden under a coquettish cap or bonnet of silk. The Breton shape, copied from the peasant bonnet, with its little projecting "ears," is a becoming and also a practical shape, and there are Dutch kapp's. Quaker bonnets, or, for those whom the bonnet does not suit, delightful turban shapes to choose from. The question of stockings or no stockings must be left to individual discretion. More benefit is derived from bathing without them, undoubtedly; but some people, who do not take the hygienic side of the occupation very seriously, like to complete their costumes with black stockings and sandals, laced up the leg with coloured ribbons to match the gown.

And now let us consider some other necessary items of the holiday outfit. What shall be taken and what shall be left depends upon the woman and the place. Some women put away their smartest clothes when they set off for a recuperative month at the seaside after the fag of the London season; while to others these few weeks of idleness represent the only time in the year when there is leisure and opportunity for donning "fluffy" frocks. Strictly speaking, muslins are not suitable wear at the seaside; they are adversely affected by the atmosphere, and quickly get crushed and tired-looking. Most women include at least one washing coat and skirt in their seaside wardrobe, and this should be really well cut, and smart enough to be donned for a regatta or sports meeting, or for promenade wear at the fashionable hour. There is a charming design on another page of this issue for such a suit in brown holland, with facings of white linen and little lawn frills. The coat is cut in a novel way, with a slight suggestion of the "Newmarket" style in its pockets, and the back panel encroaching, in the form of narrow gussets, upon the cut-away fronts of the coat. The double revers and frilled collar are very smart, and the sleeves, opened up to reveal lawn frills, are quite new and quite attractive, which so many new things are not.

A flannel coat and skirt is a most desirable addition to the holiday kit, and, although a cream flannel with a black stripe is not a novelty in the history of dress, it is one upon which fashion has set its seal of approval this year. If the linen costume is not practicable, then the design would adapt itself admirably to a cream, or even a black flannel, with facings of white piqué. However serviceable and simple one's week-day attire may be, one always wants one rather smarter frock in which to regain one's self-esteem on Sunday. Gorgeous silks and satins are out of place, of course, but what could be nicer than the little model sketched on this page, in cerise mousseline de soie, with its centre panel of white tulle plissé? It would answer very well, too, for restaurant or casino wear, for which a low-cut gown is quite unnecessary. You will notice the manner in which the yoke is cut, extending over the arm to meet the sleeve, and you will, I think, agree that this is a very charming style.

I am, ever yours, BETTY MODISH.

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